

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
July 18, 2019

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Ron Johnson.
- Board members in attendance: Ron Johnson, Paul Hayes, Reggie Nelson, Susan Cushing, Dave Maxwell, Travis Downing, A.J. Mann; absent: Bill Quackenbush, Tracy Littlejohn, Richard Wallin. Staff present: Marcy West, Jason Leis, Erica Cronk.
 - Motion by Maxwell/Cushing to approve the agenda. Unanimous.
 - Downing/Maxwell motion to approve April 18, 2019 minutes; motion carried.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: West – Yes, it's been posted in compliance with State law.
 - Public Input – none.
- II. Budget Report -
- West - [handout]. Review FY19 which ended June 30, 2019. Not all transfers between appropriations has taken place yet. 16100 appropriation will be spent out; will use 16100 balance to cover negative amount in 12100 appropriation. Money set aside in "special purpose" line in each appropriation was for blacktopping Old 131 Trail project which was completed late spring. Cushing curious to see what total flood costs from August 2018 will end up. West mentioned in addition to flood costs was a big loss in revenue.
 - Review Biannual Budget [on screen]. Permanent state employees receive a 2% raise. The request submitted for full time Forestry position was not approved.
- III. Discussion on proposal to comply with campsite regulations regarding floodplain zoning.
- West - [handout]. Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) inherited campsites from Army Corps of Engineers. Approximately fourteen campsites located in the floodplain. If not moved out of the floodplain, sites pose a risk to users and KVR would not be eligible for disaster relief payments.
 - Recommendations include signing current high-risk campsites until they can be evaluated, and an archeological and environmental impact assessment can be completed prior to designation of a new site; Close site M as there is no safe evacuation route and have had close calls there before; relocate the group site at Landing 14 to an area near County Road P West/Old Hwy 131 Trail; inform and educate visitors in time for the 2020 paddling season.
 - Need to consider campsites on Trust Land; removing high-risk sites all together if necessary; visitors might try to continue to use old sites and may be difficult to enforce.
 - Hayes suggest taking the sites of greatest concern and removing or relocating those first. Continue to map relocation of other sites and move forward with the required archeological surveys and environmental assessments as required.
- IV. Education & Events Program Update: West
- Summer camps are up and running - eighteen separate sessions of camp offered this year - everything going well so far. Jonah Evans is the camp intern this summer and doing a great job – he attends Northland College in Ashland during the school year. Forest Fridays is a new semester long education program being offered starting this fall and again in the spring – registration is open and on our website. Kiesau is working on the Fall/Winter programming including Driftless Dialogue, Dam Challenge and a new Nature Journaling workshop. Dam Challenge Triathlon is October 5 - registration is open – Ali Dickson is helping with promotion and final details – looking for volunteers and sponsors.
 - Next Education and Tourism Committee Meeting will be August 15, 2019.

V. Property Management/Enforcement Update: Leis

- Old 131 Trail pavement is complete – Leis working with contractor on a few issues. KVR crew worked to clear trees off trails from recent storms – cleared 30 last week alone. Crew along with Ho-Chunk youth made repairs to the Rockton Trail – put in railroad ties and build it up. Completed a similar project on Hay Valley Trail as well. Permanent signage is up at Landings 5 & 7 indicating No Parking Unloading ONLY. Garbage bins are being utilized by users in their new location away from the boat landing – have not had any issues. Leis distributed No Glass on River and NIXLE signs to La Farge and Ontario businesses. Ben Johnston and Jordan Marshall have been going after invasives. KVR crew and logger cleared several log jams recently.
- All canoe outfitters have signed and paid for their Commercial Use License Agreement as of 7/17/2019; Hayes suggests any non-profit who used the property should be exempt from agreement but should consider another agreement for them. West comments that KVR can adopt and use the Special Event Request permit we currently have in place.
- Leis shared that Kickapoo Woods Cooperative (KWC) has dissolved. KVR currently has a contract with KWC for pine thinning. Thomas Wyse will complete the contract agreement under his personal business. Leis will work to get that in writing.
- Final phase of the Weister Creek Restoration project is underway. In stream work will likely be completed in the next few weeks. Discussion on signage to recognize those who contributed to the project. West [reviewed on screen] potential signs to consider. Hayes will work on DNR specific signage and will bring back to next KRMB meeting in September.
- Enforcement Update: No major issues on the property; few citations have been issued. Leis submitted paperwork for new enforcement truck; might arrive as early as December or early 2020. Swift Water Rescue Training is coming up August 3 & 4 in La Farge. National Night Out is being held Tuesday, August 6th in Viroqua at Vernon County Fairgrounds; Leis will represent KVR with a booth; the night out gives community members a chance to connect with Law Enforcement.
- Other:
- Agency Liaisons – none.
- Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve – Hoel update: Thanks to Tom Miron who has done an excellent job updating the Friends website; Gina Rae is no longer accountant for Friends, working on finding a replacement. Upcoming Events include the Old Hwy 131 Auto-tour which was rescheduled from July 4 to October 12, 2019 due to heavy rain leading up to the Fourth that prevented the drive from happening (Old Hwy Trail was mud covered); 2nd Annual Rustic Raft Rally on July 27, 2019; Friends will host another staff appreciation dinner August 8th, 2019 for Kickapoo Valley Reserve staff and family.
- Board and Staff – none.
- Calls for Suggestions of Future Agenda Items – none.
- Next KRMB meeting September 19, 2019.
- Cushing/Downing motion to adjourn to closed session; motion carries. Motion to Convene in Closed Session – Exemptions permitted: (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

Meeting adjourned to closed session 8:20PM.

Recorded by:
Erica Cronk, Executive Assistant